

Claims:

1. A gripping aid for a hand held instrument comprising a grip body provided with a bore for receiving the instrument, wherein said bore defines an x-axis of an x-y-z coordinate system, wherein said grip body comprises a first longitudinally extending surface comprising a generally concave surface located relatively near a distal end of said grip body, and a relatively more elevated, raised surface located relatively near a proximal end of said grip body, wherein said grip body further comprises a first thumb wrap-preventing rim that extends generally in a z-direction from a border of a raised ridge, and the ridge border is relatively more elevated in a y-direction relative to said x-axis near said distal body end than near said proximal body end.
2. The gripping aid of claim 1, wherein said first thumb wrap-preventing rim is generally arched and has a locus of maximum elevation in said y-direction relatively near said distal body end.
3. The gripping aid of claim 2, wherein said first thumb wrap-preventing rim is the most extended in said z-direction approximately from said locus of maximum elevation to a locus at which said rim becomes generally perpendicular to said x-axis.
4. The gripping aid of claim 1, wherein at said distal body end, said first thumb wrap-preventing rim comprises a rearward curl and extends generally in said z-direction from a grip body portion that surrounds the mounting bore.
5. The gripping aid of claim 1, wherein said generally

concave surface rises in the direction of said first thumb wrap-preventing rim to form a lesser rim that extends generally in said z-direction a shorter distance than said thumb wrap-preventing rim extends.

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6. The gripping aid of claim 5, wherein said lesser rim is spaced from said first thumb wrap-preventing rim by a valley having a depth and a width suitable for receiving a fingernail.

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7. The gripping aid of claim 5, wherein said first thumb wrap-preventing rim extends generally in said z-direction from a grip body portion that surrounds the mounting bore, and comprises a rearward curl, and said lesser rim intersects said rearward curl.

8. The gripping aid of claim 1, wherein said grip body further comprises a longitudinally extending saddle comprising a seat between a distal saddle lip and an opposing proximal saddle lip that extend generally in a y-direction opposite from the elevation direction of said ridge border.

9. The gripping aid of claim 8, wherein said distal saddle lip extends further than said proximal saddle lip in said opposite y-direction, and said distal saddle lip extends forwardly toward said distal body end.

10. The gripping aid of claim 8, wherein the saddle seat comprises lateral edges, and said first longitudinally extending surface comprises a y-z plane cross-section that decreases in elevation in said z-direction from the respective lateral edge of said saddle seat until said generally concave surface of said first longitudinally extending surface, rises in elevation to form a finger

stop.

11. The gripping aid of claim 1, wherein said grip body is symmetrical on each side of an x-y plane parting line such
5 that one side of said grip body comprises said first longitudinally extending surface and said first thumb wrap-preventing rim, and the other side of said grip body comprises a second longitudinally extending surface and a second thumb wrap-preventing rim.

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12. A gripping aid for a hand-held instrument comprising a grip body provided with a bore for receiving the instrument, wherein said bore defines an x-axis of an x-y-z coordinate system, wherein said grip body comprises a first
15 longitudinally extending surface comprising a generally concave surface located relatively near a distal end of said body, wherein said grip body further comprises a first thumb wrap-preventing rim that extends generally in a z-direction from a border of a raised ridge, and the ridge
20 border is elevated in a y-direction relative to said x-axis, and wherein said generally concave surface rises in the direction of said thumb wrap-preventing rim to form a lesser rim that extends generally in said z-direction a shorter distance than said thumb wrap-preventing rim
25 extends.

13. The gripping aid of claim 12, wherein said grip body further comprises a longitudinally extending saddle comprising a seat between a distal saddle lip and an
30 opposing proximal saddle lip that extend generally in a y-direction opposite from the elevation direction of said ridge border.

14. The gripping aid of claim 13, wherein said distal
35 saddle lip extends further than said proximal saddle lip in

said opposite y-direction, and said distal saddle lip extends forwardly toward said distal body end.

15. A gripping aid for a hand-held instrument comprising a
5 grip body provided with a bore for receiving the instrument, wherein said bore defines an x-axis of an x-y-z coordinate system, wherein said grip body is symmetrical on each side of an x-y plane parting line such that each side of said grip body comprises a longitudinally extending
10 surface comprising a generally concave surface located relatively near a distal end of said grip body, and a relatively more elevated, raised surface located relatively near a proximal end of said grip body, and further comprises a thumb wrap-preventing rim,

15 wherein the thumb wrap-preventing rims extend from a border of a raised ridge generally in opposite z-directions, and the ridge border is elevated in a y-direction relative to said x-axis, and wherein said grip body further comprises a longitudinally extending saddle
20 comprising a seat between a distal saddle lip and an opposing proximal saddle lip that extend generally in a y-direction opposite from the elevation direction of said ridge border.

25 16. The gripping aid of claim 15, wherein said generally concave surface rises in the direction of the respective thumb wrap-preventing rim to form a lesser rim that extends generally in the respective z-direction a shorter distance than the respective thumb wrap-preventing rim extends.

30 17. The gripping aid of claim 15, wherein said distal saddle lip extends further than said proximal saddle lip in said opposite y-direction, and said distal saddle lip extends forwardly toward said distal body end.